

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : THE DIRECTOR

DATE: June 28, 1948

FROM : MR. D. M. LADD *DL*SUBJECT: *** CIA Applicant Investigations
Request by Admiral Hillenkoetter to See Director

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

Reference is made to a memorandum to me from Mr. Keay dated June 25, 1948, pointing out that Admiral Hillenkoetter desired to discuss with you the possibility of the Bureau resuming the investigation of CIA applicants. It was also pointed out that CIA presently has a backlog of approximately 800 investigations which CIA has not been able to act upon and that it is anticipated that there will be a normal turnover of approximately 100 applicants per month. You indicated that you would see Admiral Hillenkoetter at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 29, 1948. Admiral Hillenkoetter was advised of this and stated that he would be in your office at the appointed time.

Rear Admiral Roscoe Henry ***Hillenkoetter was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1897. He was graduated with distinction from the U. S. Naval Academy in the Class of 1920. He progressed in grade until his promotion to Captain on June 18, 1942, and his selection to Rear Admiral was approved by the President, November 28, 1946. His date of rank as a Rear Admiral is March 4, 1944. Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter served as an Assistant Naval Attache at the American Embassy in Paris, France, November, 1933 until September, 1935, and again from April, 1938 to April, 1940, at which time he was designated Naval Attache and Naval Attache for Air at the American Embassy in Paris. On November 19, 1941, he joined the USS West Virginia as Executive Officer and was serving in that duty during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, being wounded in that attack which sank the West Virginia at her berth. He was transferred to the USS Maryland at Pearl Harbor on December 15, 1941, and served as Executive Office of that battleship until July 3, 1942. From September, 1942 until March, 1943, he served as Officer in Charge of Intelligence on the staff of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Area. He was transferred to the USS Dixie and was in command of that ship during the Solomon Islands campaign and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his services in command of that ship. Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter assumed the command of the battleship USS Missouri in October, 1946, and under his command transported to Turkey in the Spring of 1946, the body of the late Turkish Ambassador Mehmet Munir Ertegun. Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter was appointed Director of CIQ effective May 1, 1947, and as Director of CIA on September 26, 1947.

You will recall that we started conducting applicant investigations for CIA on September 20, 1946. It was decided by the Executive Conference to discontinue these investigations on October 1, 1947, but this was later changed to October 15, and CIA, by letter of September 30, 1947, was advised that the Bureau would discontinue applicant investigations

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on October 15, 1947. As the result of a plea by Admiral Hillenkoetter to continue the investigations, he was advised by letter of October 8, 1947, that the Bureau would continue to receive requests for investigations until November 15, 1947. Finally, as a result of a letter from Secretary of Defense Forrestal dated November 6, 1947, the Bureau agreed to continue to receive requests until January 1, 1948. Admiral Hillenkoetter was advised of this decision by letter of November 13, 1947.

Between September 30, 1946 and January 1, 1948, the Bureau received a total of 3,340 requests for investigations of which 3,258 were actually investigated. The Bureau was reimbursed for these investigations at a cost of \$100 each. It should be noted in connection with these investigations that CIA agreed to a dead line of thirty days to complete the investigations but the Bureau found it very difficult to meet this dead line.

The above is submitted as of possible interest to you in connection with your proposed conference with Admiral Hillenkoetter.

ADDENDUM

DML:FA
6/28/48

I have been advised that CIA is having considerable difficulty trying to investigate their own applicants. As a result a backlog of 800 or more cases have accumulated which they have not been able to handle. It is apparently due to this situation that Admiral Hillenkoetter has requested a conference with you in order that he may request that we again conduct their investigations for them.

D. M. Ladd

